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09/449,001	11/24/1999	PAUL SENN	BCK-201	5697
207	7590	05/18/2006	EXAMINER	
WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP TEN POST OFFICE SQUARE BOSTON, MA 02109			TRAN, PABLO N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2618	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-22, 24-28, 30-33, 35-38, and 40-56 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kirby (6,330,443).

As per claims 1 and 12, Kirby disclosed a system for allowing a subscriber to a prepaid communication service to roam between a different service markets comprising a serving MSC (fig. 1/no. 20, 60) capable of communicating with a roaming subscriber's phone unit (fig. 1/no. 80a, 80c) and capable of generating a request for a profile associated with the subscriber (col. 14/ln. 27-31), a location register (fig. 1/no. 28-29, 48-49, col. 12/ln. 45-67) in communicating with the serving MSC and HLR (fig. 1/ln. 43) collecting the subscriber profile and determined whether a prepaid platform is associated with the respective market of the serving MSC (fig. 1, where it is clear that National Debit Platform 70 is associated with serving MSC 60 and debit platform 26 is associated with serving MSC 20) and selectively modifying (the requested and collected

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subscriber profile based on whether a prepaid platform is associated with the respective market the serving MSC, a prepaid platform (fig. 1/no. 26, 46, 72), where the selective modification of the requested and collected subscriber profile by the location register is for enabling the serving MSC to employ the prepaid platform associated with the respective market and thereby to enable the provision of prepaid services to the roaming subscriber (as shown in fig. 1, it is clear that for roaming subscriber 80c, the serving MSC 60 employed prepaid platform 72 and for roaming subscriber 80a, the serving MSC will employed prepaid platform 26)

As per claims 2 and 13, Kirby disclosed the location register includes a database (col. 12/ln. 1-13, 45-67) having information representative of prepaid platforms associated with a plurality of markets capable of servicing the subscriber having a prepaid platform associated therewith .

As per claims 3 and 14, Kirby disclosed the location register includes a message-processing unit (col. 12/ln. 45-67) for processing a message from the serving MSC for identifying whether a prepaid platforms is associated with the respective market f the serving MSC .

As per claims 4 and 15, Kirby disclosed the serving MSC includes a profile request service capable of requesting a user profile in response to receipt of an NPA/NXX signal representative of the subscriber being a prepaid customer (TABLE A-F).

As per claims 5 and 16, Kirby disclosed the location register includes a memory space (col. 12/ln. 45-67) for storing information representative of a location associated with the subscriber.

As per claims 6 and 17, Kirby disclosed the location register includes means for providing a HLR with information representative of a location associated with the subscriber (col. 4/ln. 20-35).

As per claims 7 and 18, Kirby disclosed the location register includes means for passing through registration requests for subscribers identified as non-prepaid subscribers (col. 9/ln. 55-col. 10/ln. 19).

As per claims 8 and 19, Kirby disclosed the location register includes means for requesting subscriber location information from a HLR associated with the subscriber (col. 12/ln. 1-13, 45-67).

As per claim 9, *Kirby disclosed* the location register includes is in communication with the prepaid platform for delivering subscriber location information to the prepaid platform (col. 12/ln. 1-13, 45-67).

As per claims 10 and 20, Kirby disclosed the location register includes means for communicating with a VLR to allow call termination for a call (fig. 3-5, col. 4/ln. 20-35, col. 10/ln. 1-35, col. 24/ln. 29-col. 26/ln. 62).

As per claim 11, Kirby disclosed the location register includes an error reporter for reporting detected error conditions to the prepaid platform (col. 18/ln. 44-col. 19/ln. 5).

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As per claims 21, 28, 33, and 38, Kirby disclose all the claimed limitation as stated above in claim 1, Kirby further disclosed that based on whether a prepaid platform is associated with the respective roaming market, modifying the subscriber profile to route the call to at least one of a prepaid platform located in the respective market for the serving MSC or to a prepaid platform located in a market different than the respective market (fig. 1 , 3-5, col. 4/ln. 20-35, col. 10/ln. 1-35, col. 24/ln. 29-col. 26/ln. 62).

As per claims 22 and 44, Kirby disclosed the call originates from at least one of a mobile telephone or a landline (fig. 3-5, col. 4/ln. 20-35, col. 10/ln. 1-35, col. 24/ln. 29-col. 26/ln. 62).

As per claims 24, 30, 35, 47-48, and 53-54, Kirby disclosed modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to at least one of a prepaid platform located in the respective market associated with the serving MSC for the serving MSC to complete the call (fig. 1, 3-5, col. 4/ln. 20-35, col. 10/ln. 1-35, col. 24/ln. 29-col. 26/ln. 62).

As per claims 25, 27, 31, 36, 41, and 45, Kirby disclosed modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a hotline (toll-free) number on a PSTN (col. 18/ln. 44-col. 19/ln. 5).

As per claims 26, 32, 37, 42-43 46, 49-52, and 55-56 Kirby disclosed modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to include a hotline (toll-free) number for a prepaid platform located in a market different than the respective market for the MSC

(fig. 1, 3-5, col. 4/ln. 20-35, col. 10/ln. 1-35, col. 18/ln. 44-col. 19/ln. 5, col. 24/ln. 29-col. 26/ln. 62).

As per claim -40, Kirby disclosed modifying the profile associated with the subscriber to route the call to a prepaid platform located in the respective market for the serving MSC (fig. 1, 3-5, col. 4/ln. 20-35, col. 10/ln. 1-35, col. 24/ln. 29-col. 26/ln. 62).

### **Conclusion**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pablo Tran whose telephone number is (571)272-7898. The examiner normal hours are 9:30 -5:00 (Monday-Friday). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban, can be reached at (571)272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) System. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-directauspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**PABLO N. TRAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**



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May 10, 2006